

## AFDC – Foster Care

### DESCRIPTION OF MAJOR SERVICES

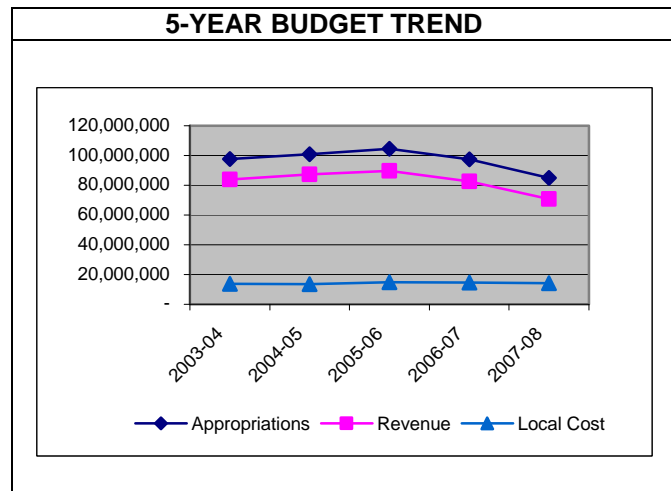
This program provides aid payments for children living in foster homes and group-care facilities. The Foster Care caseload consists of cases from both the Department of Children's Services (DCS) (approximately 90%) and Probation (approximately 10%). The cost of Probation related foster care cases is approximately 4.5 times greater than DCS cases due to the higher levels of care required for these juveniles.

There are two funding eligibility criteria in the Foster Care Program, federal (federal, state and county participation) and non-federal (state and county only). Foster Care placements are generally eligible for federal financial participation if the parents meet the previous Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC) Program criteria.

- For federally eligible (federal) cases, the cost-sharing ratios are approximately 43% federal, 22% state, and 35% county.
- For non-federally eligible (non-federal) cases, the cost-sharing ratio is 40% state and 60% county.
- All county share-of-cost is mandated and is reimbursed from Social Services Realignment and the county general fund.

There is no staffing associated with this budget unit.

### BUDGET HISTORY



### PERFORMANCE HISTORY

	2003-04 Actual	2004-05 Actual	2005-06 Actual	2006-07 Modified Budget	2006-07 Actual
Appropriation	96,259,224	96,488,529	94,195,015	97,376,873	85,014,346
Departmental Revenue	82,481,186	82,904,560	79,357,104	82,654,830	70,199,472
Local Cost	13,778,038	13,583,969	14,837,911	14,722,043	14,814,874

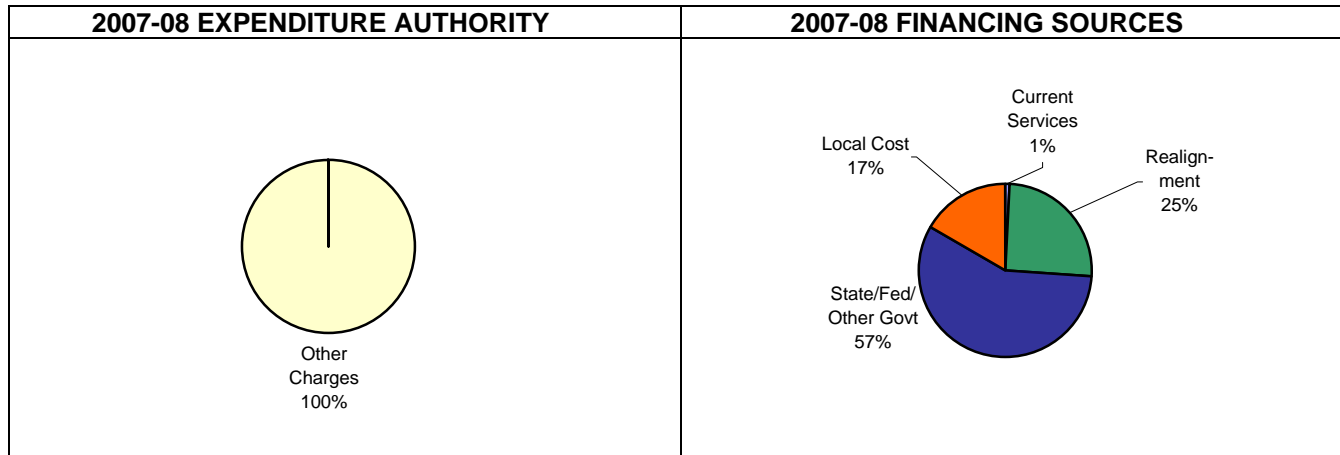
Caseload has experienced a slow, but steady decline in recent years, partly due to cases shifting from the Foster Care program into the Kin-Gap program. A decrease in the number of petitions filed also contributes to the caseload decline. As a result, the year ended \$12.4 million below what was appropriated due to the decrease in case load discussed above.

In 2004-05, the Department of Children's Services implemented the "Family to Family" program. One of the goals of this program is to place children in their own neighborhoods and reduce placements in the more costly Foster Family Agencies and Group Homes whenever possible. This appears to have slowed the increase in the cost per case. Compared to the prior year, 2006-07 costs for Federal cases increased 1.5% (a 3% increase had been budgeted) and case costs for Non-Federal cases decreased 3.5%.

The caseload decreases and cost savings resulted in savings of \$4.6 million of Social Services Realignment.



## ANALYSIS OF FINAL BUDGET



GROUP: Human Services  
DEPARTMENT: AFDC - Foster Care  
FUND: General

BUDGET UNIT: AAB BHI  
FUNCTION: Public Assistance  
ACTIVITY: Aid Programs

	2003-04 Actual	2004-05 Actual	2005-06 Actual	2006-07 Actual	2006-07 Final Budget	2007-08 Final Budget	Change From 2006-07 Final Budget
<b>Appropriation</b>							
Other Charges	95,390,547	95,519,773	93,317,246	85,014,346	97,376,873	85,012,850	(12,364,023)
Transfers	868,677	968,756	877,769	-	-	-	-
Total Appropriation	96,259,224	96,488,529	94,195,015	85,014,346	97,376,873	85,012,850	(12,364,023)
<b>Departmental Revenue</b>							
Realignment	23,778,136	25,839,465	20,934,763	-	24,345,072	21,336,609	(3,008,463)
State, Fed or Gov't Aid	57,770,706	56,225,689	57,335,742	49,706,375	57,509,758	48,600,153	(8,909,605)
Current Services	827,040	819,252	1,060,578	742,337	800,000	800,000	-
Other Revenue	105,304	20,154	26,021	14,748	-	-	-
Total Revenue	82,481,186	82,904,560	79,357,104	50,463,460	82,654,830	70,736,762	(11,918,068)
Local Cost	13,778,038	13,583,969	14,837,911	34,550,886	14,722,043	14,276,088	(445,955)

Other charges of \$85.0 million represent aid payments for children living in foster homes and group-care facilities. The decrease by \$12.4 million is due to caseload decline.

Foster Care caseload has experienced a decline in recent years, partly due to cases shifting from the Foster Care program into the Kin-Gap program. After experiencing accelerated caseload decreases in the first half of 2006-07, the department is projecting that the rate of decrease will slow in 2007-08.

It is predicted that the costs of foster care cases will continue to increase. Based on the average increase of the last five years, the average cost per case in 2007-08 is projected to increase approximately 0.5% over average cost per case in 2006-07.

In 2006, the federal government demanded of the state that the federal share of all identified foster care overpayments be immediately repaid, retroactive to October 1, 2003. It has been determined that San Bernardino County's share of this demand will be approximately \$1.9 million. Sufficient appropriation has been added and revenue from Social Services Realignment has been included in the budget year to cover this payment, if necessary.

Departmental revenue is decreasing by \$8.9 million due to caseload decline.

Local cost savings of approximately \$0.45 million are projected in this budget unit. These savings will be utilized to offset additional local cost needed in other HS Subsistence Budget units to allow HS to remain within local cost targets, overall.

